



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Eldorado National Forest

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File Code: 1500

Date: August 8, 2014

To Interested Parties:

I have reviewed the recent letters from Travel Management SEIS appellants with regard to the re-opening of 19E01, the Clover Valley/Deer Valley Trail. The meadow site was recently evaluated in more detail and the interdisciplinary team concluded that because the road itself is having such a minimal effect on natural flows, it is in compliance with Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Standard & Guideline 100 in relation to hydrologic connectivity of the meadow.

We now know the road occurs in habitat suitable for the Yosemite Toad, a new listed threatened species. This means the road cannot be reopened until we consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. While we cannot predict how long this process will take, we fully expect the road to be opened by next season.

Simultaneously, we will be completing NEPA analysis for a project that will encompass restoration at the crossings and explore the short reroute that was recommended during the July 29, 2014 site visit. Re-opening 19E01 will not be contingent on completion of this work. The project will be implemented by the Forest Service with the assistance of volunteers and other partners.

I remain committed to doing what is appropriate and necessary to re-open these roads and encourage you to stay involved with us as we develop solutions and respond to new information.

Sincerely,

LAURENCE CRABTREE
Forest Supervisor

